

Born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where her parents still reside, Major Vincent was commissioned as a Medical Service Corps officer after her graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Comparative Politics. She also holds a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University.

Major Vincent has served in a broad range of assignments during her thirteen years as an Army officer. Her assignments include: platoon leader and company executive officer at Fort Lewis, WA; Medical Operations Officer in Seagoville, TX; and Legislative Liaison in the National Capital Region. She also has a combat deployment encompassing 17 months in theater where she served in the Commander's Initiatives Group and as aide-de-camp for the Multi-National Force—Iraq Commander, General Ray Odierno.

In 2014, I had the privilege of having Major Vincent as an Army Congressional Fellow in my office and continued to work with her during her subsequent assignment as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the U.S. Army. Major Vincent's professionalism, diligence, and commitment to the mission are unmatched, and her work both as a fellow and as a liaison very effectively represented the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense to the United States Congress.

Throughout her career, Major Vincent has positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited from her extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion for the Army profession. I join my colleagues today in honoring her dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to work with Major Vincent. It is with great appreciation that I recognize and commend Abigail for her service to our country and wish her all the best as she continues her service in the United States Army.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 15, 2018*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 13, 2018, I was absent for recorded votes No. 261 through No. 264. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on Roll Call No. 261 I would have voted no; on Roll Call No. 262 I would have voted no; on Roll Call No. 263 I would have voted yes; and on Roll Call No. 264 I would have voted yes.

#### RECOGNIZING JERRY ANDERSON FOR A STORIED CAREER SERV- ING NORTHWEST OHIO

#### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 15, 2018*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize WTOL's Jerry Anderson for his years of service to Northwest Ohio as today will be his

last day before retiring. Jerry has served Northwest Ohio as a valued and trustworthy face on the local news for more than 40 years.

Jerry Anderson started his career in Bowling Green on the radio airwaves for WFOB in 1974 before beginning his TV news career in 1980. Jerry covered four national political conventions, the inaugurations of three presidents, and Pope John Paul II's visit to Detroit into the living room of families in Northwest Ohio, and he was someone that Ohioans knew they could count on.

Jerry is beloved and respected because he truly cares about Northwest Ohio and the people that live there. He's been active in local charitable efforts, including earning his certification as an auctioneer so he could volunteer for more than 20 charity auctions annually. He also can often be seen as an emcee at community events to help raise funding for local schools, disadvantaged families, and individuals with disabilities.

I know his dedication to our region, as I've spent many years next to him at the Applebutter Fest in Grand Rapids, Ohio. Jerry always made time to talk.

Mr. Speaker, Jerry Anderson is an institution in Toledo and Northwest Ohio, and while he'll be sorely missed, I wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

#### BILL MITSCH

#### HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 15, 2018*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bill Mitsch for having received the first Odum Award for Ecological Engineering Excellence from the American Ecological Engineering Society in Houston, Texas.

As Director of the Everglades Wetland Research Park at Florida Gulf Coast University, he has become a highly respected scientist in the fields of wetland ecology, biogeochemistry, ecological engineering, and ecosystem restoration and modelling.

He has taught and inspired generations of scientists to pursue wetlands research through his extensive research on the subject, including writing five editions of a preeminent standard textbook about wetland ecology. Further, he founded the Olentangy River Wetland Research Park, a major research wetlands laboratory at Ohio State University, and has served on the Science Advisory Board of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide his valuable input on wetland restoration.

I personally would like to thank Bill for his dedicated efforts and research on the Everglades.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF BERTHA ALICIA PEÑA

#### HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 15, 2018*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Bertha Alicia Peña of Brownsville, TX for her outstanding contributions as a teacher and administrator for the past 32 years.

In May 1974, Ms. Peña received her Associate of Arts from Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, TX. She graduated from Pan American University at Brownsville, Texas in May 1980 and received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Her passion for teaching drove her to pursue additional educational opportunities. She earned a Bilingual Certification in 1982 and a Master of Arts in Education Administration in 1990 from Pan American University.

Ms. Peña's teaching career began in 1986 with the Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) as a Kindergarten teacher at Villa Nueva Elementary School. She also taught Gifted and Talented Second Grade, Fourth Grade, and Sixth Grade. Ms. Peña became the Assistant Principal at Faulk Intermediate School in 1990 and the Principal at Lopez High School in 1993. She served in that position until 1999, when she was appointed Area Assistant Superintendent for BISD.

Her commitment to the educational success of underserved communities continued as she became Executive Director for Project Grad Brownsville from 2003 to 2005. The program, which was first implemented in the summer of 2003, includes the four-week Summer Bridge Program for incoming ninth graders. Most recently, she served as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at BISD.

I thank Ms. Peña for her unending dedication to shaping the lives of countless young people. While many pursue careers in teaching, Ms. Peña viewed education not as a job, but a calling. She used her classroom experience to improve quality of education and expand opportunities for all students, and South Texas owes her a great debt of gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Bertha Alicia Peña for her lifetime of public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her a happy retirement as we celebrate her great legacy of teaching and giving to our children and community.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JAVIER ARMANDO MARTINEZ

#### HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 15, 2018*

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Javier Armando Martinez, who passed away Saturday, November 11, 2017.

Born to Joey Martinez and Yoli Garza, Javier had four siblings, Vanessa, Veronica, Victoria, and Gustavo. He attended South Middle School in Edinburg, Texas, where he excelled academically. Javier also loved being outside. On any given day, one could find him climbing trees, swimming, or riding his bike with his older brother.

On May 19, 2015, Javier, at the age of 11, was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer. Javier bravely fought against the disease, drawing strength and comforts from his parents and siblings who provided him with love and support every step of the way.

Mr. Speaker, a brilliant young man was taken away from us before his time. Javier touched the hearts of those around him and